

Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative Newsletter



January, 2017

Notes from the Executive Director

I'm writing this newsletter in a January heatwave! I feel so sorry for the kids when there are days off from school with no snow! I guess I feel that way because my husband does the shoveling and I make the hot chocolate! I hope all of your holidays were wonderful and that you are trying to stay healthy! Take your vitamins!!

Annual Needs Assessment

Thanks so Jennifer Phillips who has updated some of the questions on the annual needs assessment. The survey is easier to complete this year as well. It is really important that we have your input as we plan for professional development opportunities for our upcoming years. This survey includes certified, licensed, and non-certified staff. Please take about 15 minutes of your valuable time to provide us with your thoughts and insights so that we can better plan for the cooperative. Just go to the website and click on the survey!

Holiday Party



Thanks as always to our lovely Sunshine Committee for another great holiday party!
(front: Bonnie, Linda, Joanne, Kate; back: Diane, Sandy, Yolanda, Laura)

And the glittery contest winners are Connie and Bonnie!





Nia with the Twerking Snowman!



Food carving from Kevin Molidor's dad!

Parent Survey

A part of the needs assessment is a survey for parents. For those parents for whom we have email addresses, we have sent it directly to them electronically. We will send all other parents a paper

copy via the administrative offices, if they request it. Parents may send them back to us or they may return them with their student. If you receive any surveys, just send them over to Bonnie. Of course, parents may access this survey via the MVSE website as well. Please include the importance of this information in your newsletters to parents.

Mandatory Crisis Prevention Institute Training (CPI)—January 30 or 31

If you are a new staff member (or a returning staff member whose certification has lapsed), you must attend the initial CPI training on January 30 or the refresher training on January 31. Sign-up to attend via our website (mvse.org) on the professional development calendar. If you have questions, please contact your immediate supervisor.

Upcoming Professional Development

All details about professional development, mentor meetings, department meetings are available on the website (mvse.org) by clicking on the calendar button on the right side of the page. **Please register via the website for all of the professional development events (not department meetings). Just click on the event on the calendar on our website (mvse.org).**

The Transition Compliance training is scheduled for January 18.
 Tech Chat on January 19.
 SLP, SW and Psychology Networks on January 27.
 Progress Monitoring Follow-up for all new staff this and last year on February 10.
 Tech Chat on February 28.

Information on the upcoming Institute Day for March 3 will be coming in a separate email from me. Once you receive it, you should all register for the assigned sessions using the information in the paragraph above.

Family Bingo Night!!!!

Mid-Valley Special Education Cooperative is excited to host its first annual Basket Raffle and Family Bingo night on Friday, February 24th!

The basket raffle will take place in the MJC gym at the Mades Johnstone Center and there will be refreshments and Bingo throughout the event. To ensure there are plenty of items to raffle off for our students and so they can enjoy the excitement of the evening, we are asking each classroom/department to team up to create a basket(s) to add to the raffle. Donations are optional. Any donation—small or large—is appreciated. Your social worker will provide you with all the details. They have all the answers if you have questions, too!

Special Olympics

This year, we are planning to have another Track and Field team of students K-8th grades with intellectual disabilities. We are hosting a parent orientation session on January 23. Parents can sign up via our website: [mvse.org/professional development](http://mvse.org/professional%20development). Everyone should mark their calendars for May to attend the regional meet. I promise it will be warmer in May! For more information, please contact Paulette Ollie.

Wellness Checks

Once again, in conjunction with D303, wellness screenings are being offered from February 14 through March 16 on different dates and different locations. This screening can detect many treatable illnesses and is a great service to our staff. It should take about 30 minutes of your time and is far better than being sick! Register at www.myinteractivehealth.com. First time users can register using sponsor code MBYF5. You may also schedule your appointment by calling Interactive Health at 800-840-6100.

IAASE Grant

Congratulations to Paulette Ollie and Jennie Stellato who wrote and received a grant for listening therapy for the students in the New Pathways EC classes. The award was from the Special Education Directors group. We hope that they have great results to share at the conference in the fall!

We're Looking for a Few Good Teaching Assistants

We have at least three open teaching assistant positions and are desperately seeking suitable candidates. In addition, we're in desperate need of substitutes. We are holding a substitute orientation session on February 3, so tell anyone you know of these great opportunities and contact Nancy Sporer.

Case Manager Reminder

Especially with possible cold/snow days, if your IEP meeting schedule changes, please notify **all** of your related service providers. They often have many students and we don't want them to have a conflict or miss your rescheduled meeting!

Move Requests

For this month, our next move date will be Thursday, January 26. So, that means you should turn in any move requests to **Bonnie Carlson** by **Monday, January 23**, so we can organize the work requests. If you have large furniture, equipment or large boxes to move, please fill out the form and clearly label the items to be moved. The forms are on the web-site.

Think Summer! ESY!

Dates and Hours:	July 10-August 3, 2017, 8:00-12:00 Mondays through Thursdays (No Fridays)
Three Locations:	MJC (Mades-Johnstone Center) The Shelby Transition Center Munhall Elementary School, St. Charles
Theme:	TBD
Orientation	June 28 and 29 (teachers and therapists), June 29 (everyone)
Staff Deadlines:	MV Student Referral Information is due to respective coordinators by <u>March 24</u> (Right before Spring Break for most of you)

- Parent Deadlines: Parent registration packets are the responsibility of the case manager or teacher and should be forwarded to the MV coordinator by April 28th
- Procedures/Forms: Details for ESY procedures and forms are included on the web-site
- Hiring: MV will be hiring supervisors, teachers, teaching assistants, related service personnel, and secretaries. Hiring for available positions will begin in late March and will continue through May. Interested applicants should apply through the form on the web-site and not Applitrack or Kane County. Even if you have worked for ESY in previous years, you must complete an application each year. In order to be considered for employment, you must have completed the necessary certification requirements, including parapro requirements.

New Staff in January

No new staff☹ We need recruits!

IMPORTANT Deadlines

Several important deadlines are fast approaching. If any of the following apply to you, please notify Nancy IN WRITING in the Human Resources Department, by the appropriate deadline.

- Feb. 1: Employees on leave of absence must inform MVSEC of their intention to return to work
- Feb. 1: Certified staff members seeking a leave of absence must inform MVSEC of their intention for the upcoming school year
- Feb. 1: Full-time, tenured staff members may request a reduction to a part-time position
- Feb. 1: Part-time staff members intending to continue part-time must provide written notice
- Feb. 1: Individuals who wish to job share must jointly apply
- Feb. 1: Employees may notify their desire for a change in their caseload/assignment for the upcoming school year
- Feb. 1: Employees may request a change in FTE status for the upcoming school year

- Mar. 1: Educators must notify MVSEC of interest in receiving payment in full the balance of their salary (no summer pay)
- Mar. 1: Any certified employee who is interested in a transfer for the upcoming school year should notify MVSEC of their intent
- Mar. 1: Employees must file an irrevocable notice of retirement

Birthdays!

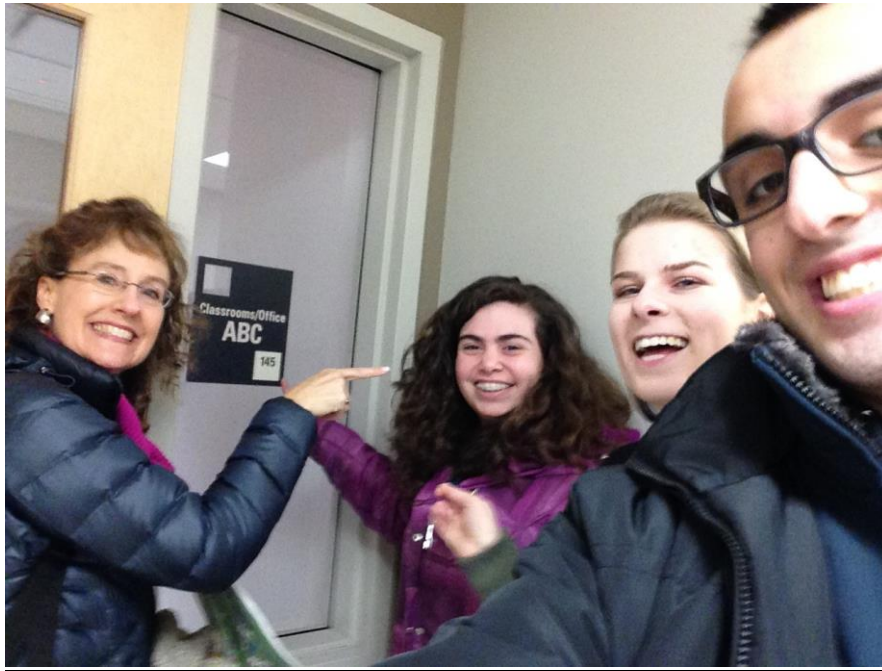
Happy January birthday wishes to: Linda Hensel (1), Karin Alber (3), Lela Frantzen (6), Paul Scanlon (15), Dianne Zedonis (17), Ryan Potter (21), Dana Brosso (22), Lynne Bach (23), Theresa Baier (26), Johnny Johnston (26), Althea Sawalski (26), JoAnne Pikula (26), Meg

Bingham (29), Magen McCarthy (29), Terri Edwards (30) and Maura Burns (31). Happy Birthday!

People News

Congrats to Gina Banks who finished her Masters Degree!

Program News





The 12+ Students had a Selfie Scavenger hunt!

From Meg: We had a great day today at WCC. I think it might have been one of the best 12+ transition programming days yet. Almost all students attended. We only lost a few to work obligations and restrictions on driving in the bad weather. Students printed their schedules, got their college IDs, organized their accommodations, picked up their books, and completed a campus selfie scavenger hunt – including finding their class location. The trip concluded with lunch in the cafeteria and some great social connections. Kudos to Amy for planning a wonderful day!

Professional Development Opportunities

The following are some professional development opportunities you may want to explore. Just let Carla know if you'd like more information.

- Creating a MATCH: Meeting Student Needs through the Use of Assistive Technology, Sue Zapf, March 3, 2017, ECC

Final Thought

The measure of who we are is what we do with what we have.

Vince Lombardi

It's budgeting season! (And Packer season for the converted Bears fans.) I, for one, am very grateful to our member districts who support and maintain solid programming for their students who attend Mid-Valley Programs. Although we scrutinize our budgets every year, they have been very willing to provide what we need to do our very best with our students. And, I appreciate your modest requests for materials and equipment for the students. I believe that you are doing wonderful things with what we have! I hope your year is off to a happy start.

My best,
C.